A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 10. 1708.

MORE *FRENCH* SPECTACLES.

IN my laſt I gave you a ſhort Hiſtorical Account of the Uſe of *French* Spectacles, and brought it down to the latter End of King *Charles* II. when a great Quantity of Spectacles having been brought over in the Time of the *Popiſh* Plot, the whole Nation began to open their Eyes, and they could ſee then that had been blind ſeveral Ages before. I have not Time to enumerate the Effects of their Illuminations, tho' they would make a very pleaſant Hiſtory, ſuch as buying Guns and Swords, in order to reſiſt Tyranny, for Nations always fly to Guns and Swords to fight againſt Tyrant Kings, as ſoon as ever they put their Spectacles on. *Mark that*, Mr. *Rehearſal*. From the Time that GOD order'd the ten Tribes to reſiſt the Arbitrary GOVERNMENT of his own anointed Tyrant *Rheoboam*; even to the late Revolution, Hiſtory is full of it, and every Nation in the Chriſtian Part of the World, even in Heathen Times, have practis'd it.

Thus I ſay, as ſoon as our Spectacles came over, we bought Guns and Swords;

1. Our *Penſion Parliament*, who were bought to ſell us, *would give no more Money*; according to Marvel.

But

But Thanks to the Whore, who made the King dogged,
For giving no more, the Rogues were prorogued.

2. *Our Court-Leras, turn'd Whigs.* For there again you muſt note, by Way of *Parentheſis*, *that putting on Spectacles always makes Men Whigs*; for all Sorts of Illuminations tend to Liberty, and Love of Liberty denominates a *Whig*.

3. Then follow'd Addreſſes innumerable; Bills againſt the Popiſh Succeſſor, burning the Pope, and a thouſand Conſequences of an illuminated Nation.

The Work was thus going on very well, while thoſe *French* Spectacles laſted, but SATHAN HINDER'D, a Miſt of Darkneſs roſe up from the bottomleſs Pit of Popery and Tyranny, *Things which generally go hand in hand*; and this inſenſibly blinded the People again; ſome in the firſt Darkneſs loſt their Spectacles, and became dim ſighted as before; others darkned with Rage, ſome with Gold, ſome with Ambition, ſome with Court Amuſements, and a thouſand Politick Infuſions, threw away their ſpectacles, or broke them, and became willfully blind; and thus they unravell'd all the Work again; and both in the *North* and *South* of this Kingdom, run headlong upon their Deliverers; ruin'd and murther'd all thoſe that would not be as blind as themſelves; but more of that when I come to talk of the Price of theſe Spectacles; *at laſt King* James *came to the Crown*, and blind enough you may be ſure we were, to let him mount a Throne, which, *by our Conſtitution*, he, *as a Papiſt*, ought not to have poſſeſs'd; all his Claim of Blood to the contrary in any wiſe notwithſtanding.

At his firſt Coming he thought to have carry'd on our National Dimneſs, and to that Purpoſe drew in ſome few miſled People by the Agency of his *Booted Apoſtles* and *Under Spur-Leathers*, as honeſt *Harry Care* call'd them; but when he found that Darkneſs of the Eyes was engroſſed by *another Party*, and would not anſwer his End, he took the true Method, like a true Friend to *England as he was eventually*, and ſending over to *France* for SPECTACLES, immediately diſtributed them all over the Nation ——— And firſt he ſent ſome *Iriſh* Officers down to *Portſmouth* to help the Officers of the Army *to Spectacles*; and Colonel *Beaumont*, and *the ſix Captains* bought them preſently, and having once put them on, they laid down their Commiſſions, and came up *perfectly illuminated*; then he ſent for almoſt all the Gentlemen in *England*, that were like to come into publick Buſineſs, or to ſit in Parliament, and carrying them into his CLOSET, his Majeſty beſtow'd *Spectacles* on them with his own Hands: Further, that his *Spectacles* might be properly diſtributed, he ſent ſome to every conſiderable Part of the Nation; Old *Obadiah* carry'd them to *Oxford*, beſtow'd them firſt on Dr. *Hough*, and the Fellows of *Maudlin*: And Father ——— convey'd them to *Cambridge*; ſo our Seminaries of Learning, who till then GOD knows were blind enough, obtain'd an *Eclairciſſement* immediately.

As for my Lords the Biſhops, *they* obtain'd Spectacles *the ſhorteſt Way*, being oblig'd to go *no further* than the *Tower* for them. How ſome of thoſe right Reverend and moſt Reverend came to loſe their Spectacles again, is too long a Story to tell here.

Next, *this good King*. For I muſt own upon all Occaſions, King *James* did this Nation more Good, than all the Kings that ever went before him, *Edward* VI. only excepted. *This Good Prince*, I ſay, not willing that any of his People ſhould want *Spectacles*, erected a high *Commiſſion Court*, in order to find theſe uſeful *Spectacles* to all the Clergy in the Nation.

Now as it is the Office and Buſineſs of the Clergy to inſtruct and illuminate the People, *ſo theſe Spectacles*, by the Care of their Monarch, being thus effectually convey'd to the Clergy, they immediately convey'd their Light to the People; *and thus at once the whole Nation became illuminated.*

And I hope in this, I do the Clergy exact Juſtice, in acknowledging ſo much of our Revolution Illumination to proceed from their Diligence in informing the People,

People; *whether they* were flirr'd up to it from the Danger, they saw the poor Peoples Liberty in from encroaching Tyranny, or *whether they* were allarm'd at the immediate Danger, which threatned their own Benefices only, from the High Commission Court, is not our present Dispute; and Authors having not determin'd it, nor the Clergy clear'd themselves of the Scandal, I must own my Incapacity to do it for them; and *so I leave it where I find it.*

And thus, Gentlemen, we are come to the Revolution; that Glorious Return of Light and Liberty to three Nations, *for which*, unthankful Creatures as we are, we have most ungratefully treated the principal Agent under Providence, *I mean King James.* For however instrumental King *William* was in our Deliverance, *the Service King* James *did you*, ought never to be forgotten; for it was *HE* first taught you how to know the Difference betwees the Light of Law and Liberty which you now enjoy, and the Darkness of Bondage and Idolatry, which Blindness and Want of Spectacles had brought you to before; and which, *if King* James *had not help'd you to Light*, might by this Time have ruin'd you.

And is it not very strange now? That after King *James* had furnish'd the whole Nation *with Spectacles*; in Manner and Form as you have heard, and we were at once *universally enlightned*; after the Light we had receiv'd had put us upon a perfect and entire Revolution of Affairs, and setting every thing upon its right Foot; Liberty restor'd, Darkness and Bondage dispell'd, Rogues dispossess'd, and the Constitution heal'd; Justice circulating, Religion flourishing, Tolleration granted, and the Church secur'd. Is it not, I say, very strange, *we should want Spectacles again?*

Indeed, it is a Wonder to me above all Things, that we, *who, they say, are a Nation fam'd for improving foreign Inventions*, should never learn to make these Spectacles our selves; that we might not be under a Necessity of borrowing our Illuminations from our Enemies, and continuing blind till they come hither to open our Eyes; *but since such is our Fate*, I think, it is very necessary we should now and then have a *French* Invasion, in order to furnish us *with Spectacles*, a Thing which by former Experience is known to be so useful and advantagious to the Nation in general.

And certainly, if the Government was equally sensible of the Benefit of these Spectacles, which the *French* are bringing us at this Time; they would make an Act for the Importation of them, or order no Fleet to give them no Molestation in the least, but let them pass on to *Scotland*, where no doubt they stand in need of *French Spectacles* to reconcile them to the Union. *But of this hereafter.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

THO' I cannot give my Answer to the following Letter at this Time; yet as I have several of the like by me, and the People are impatient, I give you the Letter, and may speak to the Subject hereafter.

Mr. REVIEW,

" YOU have been in *Scotland*, and we " are full of Allarms at this Time, of " the *French* making an Invasion or Descent " upon that Part of *Britain*. Now you " pretend to Impartiality in your Observations, pray, will you let the World " know your Opinion of the People there, " and their Temper, as to the Case in " hand —— And whether your beloved " Friends, the *Presbyterians*, will be true " to the Government, or whether like true " *Presbyterians*, i. e. *Rebels*, they will take " up Arms against the QUEEN, and joyn " with the *French*.

" You are particularly desir'd to give " your Opinion in this Case, because it " being known what open Opposers these " People were of the Union, it may be " reasonably expected, they will pursue the " same Principle at this Time, in which " Case we shall be very much beholding to " them.

I shall take this Subject to pieces very speedily, mean Time the Gentleman ought to have sent this Letter to another more learned Author in the *Scots* Affairs, who threatningly tell the Government in one of his Papers, that this is not a Time to provoke the *Scots*; I leave him to construe his own Words; but I must tell the Author of this Letter, that the *Scots* are the hardest Men in the World to be brought into an Engagement, but when they are in it, they know how to keep it, rather better than their Neighbours; and some of those People that were against the Union, will be more careful to keep it, than some of those made it.

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This is to give Notice, that I *Richard Baker*, of *Lawrence-Poltneys Lane*, *Cannonstreet*, *London*, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at last I apply'd my self to the late Mr. *Christopher Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* by the Tavern in *Prescot-street* in *Goodman's-Fields*; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Trusses and Rupture Spirits, with the Blessing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever since, which is about four or five Years.

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